

Standing Rules for Endorsements Desert Stonewall Democrats

Our territory is included in the 23rd, 25th and 41st Congressional Districts and the 36th and 47th Assembly Districts of California, but our primary region is the Coachella Valley.

1. Club endorsements of candidates and positions on ballot propositions may be determined at any properly noticed club meeting. The notice of the meeting must include notification of the races or ballot measures which are to be considered for endorsement.
2. Voting on any endorsement shall be by written ballot when there are contested races with club members. This rule is automatically suspended when some or all the voting takes place on-line.
3. If an endorsed candidate was not a registered Democrat at the time of endorsement, or changes party registration to other than Democrat at any time after, the endorsement shall be null and void.
4. Not more than seven months prior to an election, one Democratic candidate per office who is a DSD member in good standing, engaged with the club, and who identifies as LGBTQ is potentially eligible for an early endorsement. If no candidate receives an early endorsement, or if an additional seat for that office is open, any Democratic candidate is potentially eligible for regular endorsement.
5. Only one candidate may be endorsed per seat.
An endorsement implies that the club recommends that people vote for that candidate rather than any other candidates for that seat. It does not necessarily imply that the club supports all of the candidate's positions. DSD will not endorse more candidates for office than the number of open seats for that office.
6. Candidate questionnaires shall be prepared and approved by the Steering Committee. The completed questionnaire shall be submitted to the PAC. All candidates seeking endorsement must complete and return the PAC questionnaire to be considered for interview and endorsement. Interviews will be in-person and will involve the candidate and PAC members.
Candidate staff are not to be included unless special arrangements are made beforehand. A phone and/or video interview may be considered if appropriate. This must be agreed to by 60% of the PAC members present at a regularly scheduled meeting or polled by an email vote.
7. A member can move to accept the PAC-recommended slate by acclamation.
8. Club fundraising activities can only be done for endorsed candidates and ballot measures. Financial contribution amounts to endorsed candidates will be determined on a case-by-case basis by a 60% vote of the Steering Committee Members present at a regularly scheduled Steering Committee Meeting.

9. Previously endorsed incumbents must complete a questionnaire and PAC interview if any actions taken, or votes cast run contrary to responses provided in previous questionnaires or if they have voted or taken positions on issues or candidates contrary to Desert Stonewall Democrat positions. 60% of the Steering Committee will make this determination. Previously endorsed incumbents are potentially eligible for early endorsement (see 4).
10. DSD does not ordinarily endorse candidates from outside our territory, because most of our members cannot vote for those candidates nor do we have an in-depth knowledge of the issues specific to their area. An exception is candidates running for state or national offices for which our members can vote. If endorsed by the state and/or county parties, DSD may also endorse the same candidate. DSD may also endorse a candidate for state or national office when neither the state or county party has endorsed a candidate.
11. DSD will consider endorsing LGBT candidates who are running for office in the DSD territory but outside our primary region if such LGBT candidates specifically request an endorsement. No financial contributions may be made to these campaigns and DSD will not make early endorsements. In these cases, DSD will seek guidance from the local Democratic clubs and will require that there be local, county or state party endorsements, before deciding on a DSD endorsement.
12. An endorsement may be rescinded by a 60% vote of the Steering Committee and ratified by a 60% vote of the membership present at a subsequent membership meeting, due notice of consideration of the motion to rescind having been given.
13. Steering Committee Endorsement in Special Elections: If a special election is to occur within 30 days after the close of filing, the Steering Committee may endorse on behalf of the Desert Stonewall Democrats any Democrat who has filed for that office. Any such endorsement will require a 75% affirmative vote by a quorum of the Steering Committee members present.
14. Local Ballot Measures: The membership must vote in the affirmative by at least a 60% majority of those present for the endorsement of a “yes,” “no,” or a “no recommendation” vote to become official. If no position receives a sufficient number of votes for endorsement, then the Club’s official recommendation on such a ballot measure will be “no position.”
15. Communications: Emails will be issued at least twice each month with information about DSD events and only those other events in which the Steering Committee has agreed that DSD will have an active role. Social media will also be used to promote these events as appropriate. The Major Events & Fundraising Committee must, within 72 hours, approve or deny requests for promotion of events from endorsed candidates and advise the Steering Committee of their decisions. Requests for promotion of other events of potential interest to area Democrats will be directed to Progressive News.
16. Endorsed candidates are expected to:

- A. Use the name “Desert Stonewall Democrats” and include it in candidate literature which lists endorsements.
- B. Refrain from giving financial support to slate cards or other campaign materials that endorse propositions seeking to deny rights to any person on the basis of age, marital status, class, ethnicity, race, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, or religion.
- C. Refrain from engaging in tactics appealing to prejudice against any person on the basis of items listed in “B.”
- D. Refrain from giving financial support to slate cards or other materials that are produced by the Republican Party or Republican organizations.

Violations of any of the above will subject the candidate to rescinding of the DSD endorsement.

17. These Standing Rules may be amended by the DSD Steering Committee upon agreement by 60% of a quorum of the Steering Committee members present at a regularly scheduled Steering Committee meeting.

(Revised: August 3, 2023 per Steering Committee discussion August 1, 2023)